ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

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BAALBEK

BY DR. W. RAYMOND DRAKE*

"In an age distant but historical an interstellar cosmic ship approached Earth reducing speed at a distance of 20,000 miles, it went into a 24-hour orbit as an artificial satellite with a rotation-period of 24 hours. The astronauts then landed on Earth with auxiliary rockets. They were considered as Gods. They brought to Earth elements of their culture, notably information about the Universe. Legends of the Sons of the Gods have since been perpetuated in the mythologies of Greece, China and above all, South America. The astronauts then explored the Earth and the Solar System, setting forth from Earth. They manufactured nuclear-fuels from terrestrial materials, they constructed launching-platforms. They then left monuments to commemorate their presence. Is the terrace at Baalbek one of these monuments?"(1)

This daring theory proposed in 1959 by the Russian physicist, Dr. Matest Agrest, drew attention to those majestic ruined colonnades crowning the mound at Baalbek in Lebanon and to the influence of the Extraterrestrials on the Patriarchs of the Bible. Like many scholars down the ages, Dr. Agrest marvelled, "Who, when and for what purpose were those cyclopean plints hewn?" Surveying these great columns in the light of our modern Space-science, we wonder still! Can the shattered temples of Baalbek shroud some ancient mystery relevant to our UFO-haunted world today?

The narrow coastal plain of Lebanon soon rises starkly to stony mountains weather-worn to jagged peaks frowning down on the distant sea, sloping inland to the verdant valley of the Beka, 3850 feet above sea-level between the Lebanon and the Anti-Lebanon ranges. In ravines shadowed by plane-trees and tamarisks rise the Orontes flowing north to Syria and the Litani (Leontes) flowing south-westwards to the Mediterranean Sea.

Amid the oasis forty miles northeast of Beirut, thirty-five miles northwest of Damascus, stand the noble temple-columns of Baalbek. Dominating the historic scene from the south looms magic Mount Hermon, snow-capped in sacred splendour, the northwestern limit of Israelite conquest of Canaan under Moses and Joshua. To the west of the tiny modern town stands the acropolis of Baalbek, ancient Heliopolis, City of the Sun, once surrounded by a pentagonal wall with five gates, probably Baal-gad in the Vale of Lebanon under Mount Hermon, whose King was captured by Joshua and then killed.

Such colossal ruins in titanic grandeur conjure a race of Giants, Extraterrestrials, mighty monuments to the Gods, superhuman strength impressing puny Man. The great Temple of the Sun, to Jupiter-Heliopolitanus, was attibuted to Antonius Pius (AD 138-181), continued by Septimius Severus (193-211) until completion by Caracalla (211-217). A smaller temple was dedicated in the 2nd Century to Bacchus or Atargatis. A thousand feet from the complex stands a circular temple to Mercury-Adonis. Gods of Heaven and Earth still communing with the stars.

From the sanctuary's eastern entrance an imposing staircase led to the propylaeum, a monumental gateway, preceded by a portico, where there was a colonnade 165 feet wide, framed by two square towers about 60 feet high. Three gates gave access to a hexagonal forecourt twenty feet higher than the ground outside, of warm colors, once surrounded by a double colonnade with four rectangular recesses. Three large gates opened on to the main rectangular court, 343 x 338 feet, surrounded on three sides by imposing colonnades and elaborately decorated exedrae (alternate rectangular and semi-circular benches), between which there are niches for statues; in the center were two huge altars, flanked by two oblong basins for lustral purposes during the sacrifice of oxen, one of the basins was richly decorated with Tritons, Nereids, Medusa heads, Cupids riding on dolphins and genii bearing garlands. In the 6th Century AD a Christian basilica, now des-

(Continued on next page)

*This article is based upon a chapter in the author's latest book, Titans in Antiquity, which was translated into Italian and published by Armenia Editore, Milan, Italy, under the title Titani Nell' Antichita. Author of the Gods and Spacemen series, Dr. Drake has delved into the legends and mythologies of Africa for Titans to support his researches into the world's ancient literature, which seems to record that Earth was ruled in a golden age long ago by Gods from outer space. The late Dr. Hans Schindler Bellamy, after reading the manuscript of this monumental work, proclaimed it to be Dr.Drake's "magnum opus."

A revised version of Titans has been published in English in India under the title Cosmic Continents by Dr. N. Mahalingam, International Society for the Investigation of Ancient Civilizations, 31, Poes Garden, Madras, 600 086, South India. Members who wish to obtain the book are cautioned that the quality of the manufacture of the book is extremely poor and the inordinate number of printing errors detracts from the otherwise scholarly excellence of the work. Unfortunately, there seems to be little likelihood that Dr. Drake's greatest work will be published in England or the United States in the foreseeable future. One American publisher rejected the manuscript on the ground that it was "fiction"!

In addition to nine "spacemen" books, W. Raymond Drake has written poetry, plays and several novels. Now retired, but still actively pursuing his research and writing, Dr. Drake lives with his wife, Marjorie, at 2 Peareth Grove, Roker, Sunderland, ENGLAND.

(Continued from previous page)
troyed, was built over the altar. The pantheon was surrounded by towering walls. The court opened on to a portico whose 84 columns were brought from Aswan in Upper Egypt, but now only a few remain.

At the west side of this court an impressive stairway of sixteen steps led to a high artificial terrace dominating the courtyard from a height of twenty-three feet with a fine view of the valley amid the towering mountains. Here stood the imposing temple to Jupiter with a base 300 feet long and 170 feet wide. A Corinthian building with ten columns on each front and nineteen on each flank; today only six still stand on the south side, ruling the mountain-ridge in solitary grandeur, each 65 feet high and 7 1/2 feet in diameter, beautiful, symetric, slender, soaring to an elaborate entablature of acanthus leaves; they are surmounted by a frieze ornamented with bulls and lions and a frame in which the lions' heads served as gargoyles. Justinian took eight of the other columns for the apses of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul; Arabs and earthquakes destroyed many more. The temple,also dedicated to Hadad, the Syrian God of thunder and lightning, in pagan times had a gold statue of the God with a whip in his right hand and a thunderbolt in his left, together with ears of corn. The statue was later removed by the Christians and lost. The Terrace was surrounded by a wall about twelve feet high built of immense stone blocks. On the western side lie the famous Trilithon - three huge stone blocks perfectly hewn and fitted - monoliths 64 feet long, 13 feet high and 10 feet thick, each weighing up to 1000 tons! An Arab legend says that these three blocks have lain there forever.

A century ago Mark Twain, the American author, marvelled when he viewed the Trilithon, "They are built into the massive wall some twenty feet above the ground. They are there, but how they got there is the question. I have seen the hull of a steamboat that was smaller than one of those stones. All these great walls are as exact and shapely as the flimsy things we build of bricks in these days. A race of Gods or Giants must have inhabited Baalbek many a century ago. Men like the men of our day could hardly rear such temples as these."(2)

The Russian geologist, Dr. Vladimir Avinsky, who visited Baalbek a few years ago, wondered at the mystery of the old stonework, on a scale not terrestrial, but cosmic.(3) On the legendary Baalbek terrace, vast as a football field, are ten great blocks, 20x10x13 feet each, put together with such precision without cement that a razor blade could not penetrate the joins. How were the massive columns made so exact without proper instruments? What technique was used for holes, decorations, straight, deep furrows? These cyclopean columns evoke the megaliths and giant pillars at Karnak near Luxor in Egypt. Architecturally they suggest the work of Titans, rather than the smaller efforts of the Greeks and Romans.

In a quarry on the hillside nearly half a mile southwest of the town of Baalbek, lies an enormous rough-hewn block of stone, said to be the largest cut stone in the world. The Ancients called it "Hajar el Kibli" - Stone of the South - which was later changed to "Hajar el Hubla" - Stone of the Woman with Child. This stone, completely quarried except for a portion at its base connecting it to the stone from which it was cut, measures 70x14x13 feet and weighs over 1,200 tons! To move such a monster would take the united effort of forty thousand men. Dr. Avinsky cogently inquires how a gang of forty thousand men could possibly be disposed to transport such a stone. Even the imaginative Mark Twain confessed "I cannot conceive how these immense stones were ever hauled from the quarries or how they were ever raised to the dizzy heights they occupy in the temples."

On a terrace below the temple of Jupiter stands the smaller Temple of Bacchus. Larger than the Parthenon in Athens, Greece, it was originally roofed with stone "tiles", each having an area of thirty square feet. Erected on a platform, this temple is almost entirely preserved.

Baalbek may signify the God, Baal, Lord of the Beka Valley. An Arab legend states that it was built by Cain, fleeing from the wrath of God, there to create a race of Giants within its great walls. Others say Solomon built it for one of his wives. Dr. Avinsky wondered whether Baalbek was built by the Egyptian Akhnaton in the 14th Century BC. But like many ancient cities, Baalbek has been built and destroyed many times. Recognition is given to the Egyptians, the Phoenicians, the Greeks and the Romans. Who laid the original foundations?

The cyclopean terrace at Baalbek is believed to be pre-Roman. No other ancient Middle Eastern government, except possibly the Egyptian, could have built it. The foundations were certainly built long before the Temple of Jupiter was raised thereon. An old legend said that the building was constructed only to protect priceless treasures which are hidden in underground vaults beneath the foundations.

After thirty years of research into the Mesopotamian texts,Zecharia Sitchin challenges traditional Old Testament translations; he interprets "Nefilim" as "People of the Shem - People of the Rocket-Ship."(4) With fantastic erudition, he apparently proves that the Nefilim landed in the Persian Gulf 450,000 years ago from the planet, Marduk, which orbits the Sun in 3200 years. They brought their highly sophisticated civilization to Sumeria and to peoples of the Middle East.In his erudite analysis, Sitchin reveals that Enlil, Lord of the airspace, made his headquarters at Nippur, "atop an artificially raised platform."

An Arab legend claims that after the biblical flood, when Nimrod ruled in Lebanon, he sent giants to destroy the fortress at Baalbek; another version alleges that he wanted to build on the strong foundations a tall tower. If buildings already existed at Baalbek, some predecessor Nimrod, presumably a Celestial, must have built them. The strong foundations were needed as a platform for the launching and landing of spacecraft. Nimrod built his ill-starred Tower of Babel at Babylon, so it was said. After its destruction by the Gods,he would not risk building another at Baalbek. Dr. Avinsky quotes the tradition that Nimrod, intending to reach the Gods, built a machine drawn by four powerful birds. This contraption soared to the skies and after prolonged wanderings in the cosmos, it crashed on Mount Hermon, where the mutilated body of the daring monarch was buried. "Does this legend hide some secret truth?" Dr. Avinsky asks. "Significantly, Hermon is not far brom Baalbek."(5)

Dr. Agrest proclaimed "I must suggest that the cosmonauts took care of the preservation of data for future generations and hid it in a suitable concealment."(6)

Will the secrets of the Gods - the Spacemen - be discovered under those temple-ruins at Baalbek?

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PEOPLE OF THE INUNDATED LAND

BY ZELMA WRIGHT*

There is a stepped pyramid,rivaling in size those of Egypt, far out in the Gulf of Mexico along the Florida Keys. It is named "Key Mound." It is difficult to imagine the manpower required to build this giant pyramid.

The ancient shore line was over one hundred miles seaward of the present coast and that early Americans inhabited this land from Florida to the Yucatan of Mexico is unquestioned. Evidence of civilization on this inundated land shows up in the numerous relics washed up on the Texas and Louisiana beaches. Arrow heads and relics have been found on these beaches and strolls along the beaches even today can be rewarding.(1)

There are pros and cons as to whether this land sank beneath the waters or whether the water level rose to cover the land. Further, when such events took place is open to dispute.

When the first Europeans arrived in the region of the Gulf coast, they found the Atacapas Indians living in villages along the bayous and marsh lands of Texas and Louisiana. The Atacapas flourished on the low lands until late in the 19th Century AD. They spoke a language different from that of any other Indian tribe. They were black people without negroid features and they preferred to live alone and to be left to themselves. According to the Atacapa religion,their ancestors lived in giant oyster shells and came up out of the sea.(2)

From the earliest contact with the white man, the Atacapas told that their ancestors related stories of gigantic beasts that lived and disappeared in the swamp lands. In the early part of this century, the Atacapa legends were proven factual, when archaeological digs conducted by the Smithsonian Institution near the Carancro Bayou in Louisiana unearthed mammoth remains.(3)

Information on the Atacapas is at best skimpy,but from the records of the early settlers, we wonder if the Atacapas are actually descendants of ancient people who came up out of the sea.

*Zelma Wright's address is 140 Briggs, Beaumont, Texas 77707 USA.

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(1) Arrows Over Texas, by Robert S. Reading, The Nylar Co., San Antonio, Texas.
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(3) Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 43, John R. Swanton 1911.

DR. PASQUAL S. SCHIEVELLA, philosopher and educator, has published his forty-year labor of love, entitled Hey! IS That You God?, which is a readable, entertaining and irreverent dialogue with "god". The book deals with the claim that there exists a non-physical, personal god who is presumed to have created the universe. The book will delight the skeptics and probably will not alter the beliefs of the faithful. Dr. Schievella's biography of Erich von Daniken is still unpublished. Hey! is available in hardcover from Sebastian Publishing Co., P.O.Box 471, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776.

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I HAVE OFTEN WONDERED why a civilization as great as ours, with the capability of reaching the pinnacle of scientific achievement, has ignored and misunderstood the truth about our past.It seems unnatural for governments and great scientists to be so bigoted and dogmatic about the subject of extraterrestrial visits to Earth in the past. Could it be that the governments of the world know that the ancient astronaut theory is true? Could it be that there is a scientific "mafia"whose members are bent upon deliberately debunking the theory and destroying its advocates? I wonder!

Along with ancient history we have ancient science,which can unlock universal laws.If we learned to master the techniques of the metaphysical and paranormal,perhaps every individual could become a super cosmic being. If we harnessed mental telepathy we would have no need for telephones.If telekinesis could be used to move objects, our transportation mess could be solved.If we could break away from commonly accepted means of curing human illnesses, and use exotic methods used by the ancients but now long since forgotten,humankind would be able to enjoy more fruitful and satisfying lives. If we would concentrate our efforts on the known methods of obtaining energy from the atmosphere, we could free ourselves from the dependence on fossil fuels and all the evils that accompany their use.

There is a greater world out there for all of us, if only our leaders,both in government and science, would not block the path of progress.If they would spend just a fraction of our human and financial resources on the study and implementation of ancient science, we could live in a more harmonious world.

Many individuals have attempted to bring new concepts to science and to reawaken interest in old concepts that have long been forgotten or brushed aside. Men like Tesla, Mesmer, Jessup, Velikovsky and now von Daniken. But all have been ridiculed, abused or ignored to the extent that the public does not know what to believe.

There must be an invisible, controlling group of people who dominate world governments, scientific thinking, religion, commerce and intercourse among nations and peoples. By controlling the educational and thought processes, manipulating the minds of the public, and dictating what is truth, they completely dominate the Earth. John Carlo, 59 Main Street, Apt. 5, Little Falls, New Jersey 07424 USA.

MEMBER EXPEDITION TO YUGOSLAVIA, TURKEY, GREECE MAINLAND AND GREEK ISLANDS.We have decided to postpone our proposed expedition to China and Tibet until 1989 or 1990. Instead, we have revived our plans for a Member Expedition to Turkey and Greece, which was thwarted in 1985 due to the unstable situation in the Middle East. We will depart Chicago on Saturday, Sept. 5, 1987 for Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia. After a day and a half at Dubrovnik,we will motor northward along the Adriatic Coast, stopping at Split, before proceeding to Novi Vinodolski on Wednesday, Sept. 9. Thursday, Friday and Saturday will be spent attending the Society's World Conference at the Hotal Lisanj and enjoying the various activities which the Conference Committee has planned for our members. On Sunday, Sept. 13 we will fly to Istanbul,Turkey for a day of sightseeing before flying to Malatya, Turkey and begin a five-day motorcoach tour of central Turkey, culminating at the fantastic site of Nemrud Dagh. On the return,we will visit Ankara, Turkey, before returning to Istanbul for the flight to Athens,Greece. The members will visit the popular sites of Athens and environs and then begin a four-day motorcoach tour of the Peloponnese and Central Greece. Some of the members will return home on Sunday, Sept. 27 and the others will enjoy an optional Mediterranean cruise to visit several of the Greek Islands before returning home on Friday, Oct. 2, 1987. Anyone interested should contact the Society Headquarters immediately.

THE STARMAN OF YUCATAN

BY GERARDO LEVET*

In the Regional Museum of Merida in the State of Yucatan, Mexico there is a stone sculpture referred to simply as "the man of the stars." The sculpture comes from Tzekelna, a place in the Puuc region once within the sphere of influence of the ancient city of Uxmal in northern Yucatan. The sculpture depicts a man with unusual garments and headgear, with a clear geometrical representation of the planet Venus, a five pointed star. (See Figure 1)

Our attention is first directed to the rather large figure of a star which appears to be held by the person between his arm and his body. The museum description of the figure is that it "probably represents a personage related to the cult of Venus." While this is probably true, it seems more logical to view the representation in a broader sense - that the personage came from the stars, an ancient astronaut. To make his point, the sculptor chose the brightest star of the morning and evening and the one most revered by the ancients - Venus.

Even a cursory examination of the figure reveals a most unusual attire, certainly not the usual garb found on Maya and Toltec figures. The official description of the head of the figure is that it has a headdress with hair gathered in the back and on the face, a large mask in the shape of Chaac, the Rain God. It is apparent that the figure's head is protected by some sort of quilted covering, which extends down the back of the neck with openings which clearly show the person's ears. Further, the "mask" is for protecting the face with clearly discernible goggles - square-shaped objects superimposed over the eyes, not the eyes themselves.

The museum description is silent concerning the elaborate suit worn by the figure, and simply says that there is a collar and breast-plate. I find the garment to be truly fascinating. We see here a totally jointed outfit to provide flexibility and freedom of movement, whether it be a pressurized suit for space travel or designed for a specific task. The figure wears gloves and boots and is depicted in a "dynamic and graceful" attitude, hardly typical of "personages of high rank."

Perhaps the most astonishing portion of the figure's attire is the strange apparatus held against its abdomen, which is supported by belts. I venture to suggest that this device is a part of the energy equipment used by the man for whatever task he was to perform.

I was greatly impressed by the statue's unusual dress, the like of which I have never seen before in any of the many places I have visited throughout the world, with one exception - the figure carved in relief on a stone stela at the archaeological zone of Tula, near Mexico City. (See Figure 2)

I have already described the Tula figure in an earlier article in Ancient Skies (10:3), as representing a person using a plasma gun to melt rock. He wears a protective helmet, gloves and boots and carries special equipment on his back. He also wears an elaborate protective suit with certain similarities to that of the Yucatan Starman.

The first common link between the two sculptures is that they both are of Toltec origin, although located 1,000 miles apart. The "plasma gun man" is found at Tula, a Toltec center, and the Yucatan Starman was found in northern Yucatan, near Chichen Itza, a territory greatly influenced by the Toltecs, a fact established by the original design of the Temple of the Warriors and the Chac-Mol at Chichen Itza, which are Toltec, not Maya. It is conceivable that both the Starman and the Plasma Gun Man are depictions of the same individual, with the Starman being shown without the helmet and protective outergarment and without the equipment on his back. Perhaps the attire of the Starman is some sort of underwear.

It seems to me that this is another proof of the presence of ancient astronauts in civilizations of the remote past who brought technology to our planet which was more advanced than ours is today.

*Mr. Levet is a mechanical engineer with several patents in the field of machine design. He is co-Director of the Mental Engineering Institute in Satelite City, Mexico and an investigator in the fields of astro-archaeology, bio-energy, meta science and other advanced endeavors. He was honored by the Polyclinic of the University of Guadalajara for his investigations in the electro-medical field. Mr. Levet is the author of two books in Spanish: Mision Vital en el Planeta Tierra and Por Los Caminos Sinuosos de la Mente. His address is Apartado Postal No. 636, Naucalpan, Edo. de Mex., MEXICO.

Figure 1. Drawing of stone statue located in the Regional Museum of Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.

Figure 2. Drawing of figure carved in relief on a stone column at Tula, Mexico.